

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Report on Agricultural, &c., Production for the Season 1922-23.

BY

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STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA—REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL, Etc., PRODUCTION, SEASON 1922-23.

Acreage cultivated, 5,439,019. Cropped, 3,575,452. Value Agricultural Production, £13,145,634.

The figures in parentheses refer to the previous year unless otherwise stated.

AREA UNDER CULTIVATION.

TOTAL area, 5,439,019 (5,091,319) acres, equal to 10·60 (10·13) acres per inhabitant. The area was distributed as follows:—Crops, 3,575,452 (3,378,764) acres; permanent sown grasses, 22,278 (20,890) acres; fallow, 1,841,289 (1,691,665) acres.

Distribution of Cropped Area.—Total, 3,575,452 (3,378,764) acres, increase, 196,688 acres. The area under cereals of all kinds for grain, hay, and fodder was 3,481,252 (3,289,951) acres; peas and beans, 5,311 (6,021) acres; orchards, 33,003 (32,296) acres; vineyards, 46,750 (41,424) acres; root crops, market gardens, &c., 8,727 (8,737) acres; other crops, 399 (345) acres.

Wheat.—2,830,591 (2,721,220) acres, increase, 109,371 acres. For grain, 2,463,086 (2,384,012) acres; hay, 359,834 (325,769) acres; green forage, 17,671 (11,439) acres.

Barley.—219,591 (174,453) acres, increase, 45,138 acres. Of the grain area 197,619 (151,257) acres were returned as malting, and 17,664 (19,630) acres as cape and other.

Oats.—393,462 (359,073) acres, increase, 34,389 acres. For grain, 173,716 (125,148) acres; hay, 208,769 (225,878) acres.

Orchards.—33,003 (32,296) acres, increase, 707 acres, making an increase of 3,983 acres in five years. Trees of bearing age account for 25,538 acres.

Vineyards.—46,750 (41,424) acres, increase, 5,326 acres, making an increase of 16,988 acres in five years. The areas were classified as for wine, 28,957 (26,444) acres; table, 840 (686) acres; drying, 16,953 (14,294) acres; 33,595 acres were shown as being of bearing age.

Miscellaneous.—Market gardens, 1,438 (1,486) acres; pumpkins and melons, 220 (276) acres; tomatoes, 498 (430) acres; potatoes, 5,749 (5,800) acres; onions, 364 (369) acres; other root crops, 468 (366) acres; nurseries, 185 (182) acres; chicory, 105 (106) acres; cotton, 32 (3) acres.

SUMMARY OF CULTIVATED AREAS IN DIVISIONS.

Division.	Cultivated Areas.		Under Crop.	
	1921-22.	1922-23.	1921-22.	1922-23.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Central	1,480,066	1,631,960	934,315	961,925
Lower North	1,561,412	1,593,100	891,998	927,757
Upper North	458,889	466,853	267,680	271,789
South-Eastern	159,729	158,571	134,679	136,415
Western	680,229	749,135	546,146	604,129
Murray Mallee	750,994	839,400	603,946	673,437
Total State ...	5,091,319	5,439,019	3,378,764	3,575,452
Increase	—	347,700	—	196,688

PRODUCTION.

Wheat.—28,784,767 (24,946,525) bushels, averaging per acre, 11·73 (10·46) bushels, an increase of 3,838,242bush. on the previous year, and 3,603,258bush. above the mean of the five years ending 1922-23.

Barley.—3,697,849 (3,278,787) bushels, averaging per acre 17·18 (19·19) bushels, increase, 419,062bush.; malting barley represented 3,450,120 (2,981,004) bushels of the total.

Oats.—1,681,783 (1,297,646) bushels, averaging per acre 9·68 (10·37) bushels, increase 384,137bush.

Hay (all kinds).—697,189 (680,201) tons, averaging per acre 1·21 (1·22) tons, increase, 16,988 tons; wheaten hay yielded 467,514 (423,995) tons, and oaten, 214,005 (243,540) tons.

Peas and Beans.—68,054 (83,515) bushels, averaging per acre, 12·81 (13·87) bushels, decrease, 15,461bush.

Orchards.—Estimated value of production, £623,482 (£658,894), averaging per acre of bearing age, £24 8s. 3d. (£26 11s. 8d.), the five years' average being £583,675 and £24 3s.

Vineyards.—Estimated value of production, £1,260,378 (£1,085,961), averaging per acre of bearing age, £37 10s. 4d. (£35 9s. 2d.), the five years' average being £1,162,099 and £39 7s. 5d. Wine made, 8,653,579 (6,370,310) gallons, increase, 2,283,269galls. and 760,234 gallons above the previous record in 1920-21. Wine stocks at June 30th last, 9,197,953 (7,563,000) gallons, increase 1,634,953 gallons. The yield of grapes was 85,701 (67,502) tons, averaging per acre of bearing age, 2·55 (2·20) tons; increase, 18,199 tons and 15,567 tons above the previous record of 70,134 tons in 1920-21. The yield was utilised as follows:—For winemaking, 55,047 (40,729) tons; drying, 29,340 (25,746) tons; and table and export 1,314 (1,027) tons. Oversea exports of vineyard production.—Currants, 64,432 (44,742) cwts., value, £199,180 (£149,393); raisins, 15,755 (26,888) cwts., £72,723 (£119,295); wines, 586,880 (445,289) gallons, £109,378 (£92,430), making a total value of £381,281 (£361,118). In addition wine was exported to other States as follows:—1,689,378 (1,860,913) gallons, value £526,053 (£581,247), making the grand total exports of wine, 2,276,258 (2,288,712) gallons, £635,431 (£673,677).

Dried Fruits.—Apricots, 12,456 (5,772) cwts.; apples, 1,203 (1,098) cwts.; pears, 1,186 (2,665) cwts.; peaches, 7,796 (4,871) cwts.; plums and prunes, 3,743 (2,500) cwts.; figs, 168 (130) cwts.; currants, 96,807 (76,534) cwts., increase 20,273cwts., and 16,407cwts. above the previous record of 80,400cwts. in 1919-20; raisins—sultanas, 39,670 (39,651) cwts.; other raisins 29,591 (26,432) cwts.; total, 69,261 (66,083) cwts., increase of 3,178cwts. over the previous record in 1921-22.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Market gardens, £98,480 (£96,193); pumpkins and melons, 1,672 (2,246) tons; tomatoes, 155,091 (117,909) bushels; potatoes, 17,356 (18,583) tons; onions, 2,648 (2,596) tons; other root crops, 2,691 (2,762) tons; nurseries, £42,490 (£33,703); chicory, 334 (372) tons; cotton, 12,427 (573) lbs.

VALUE OF PRODUCTION.

The value of all crop production for the season 1922-23 has been estimated at £13,145,634 compared with £11,610,373 the previous season. This represents an average of £25 12s. 4d. (£23 2s.) per head of population.

The valuations for the season 1922-23 compared with the previous season are grouped as follows:—

Cereals (wheat, barley, oats, &c.), £8,046,651 (£7,092,855); hay, green fodder, and straw, £2,757,271 (£2,389,238); orchards, £623,482 (£658,894); vineyards, £1,260,378 (£1,085,961); market gardens and root crops, £389,366 (£313,489); all other, £68,486 (£69,936).

The importance of the cereal and hay crops to the State is emphasised by the fact that they represent an annual mean of well over 80 per cent. of the total value of crop production.

RIVER MURRAY SETTLEMENTS.

The areas under orchards and vineyards in the irrigation settlements in the vicinity of the River Murray in comparison with five years ago are as follows:—Orchards, 5,858 (4,686) acres, increase, 1,172 acres; vineyards, 15,071 (5,871) acres, increase, 9,200 acres.

ARTIFICIAL MANURES USED.

Total quantity, 114,158 (109,254) tons, average per acre, 82·81 (82·77) lbs., proportion manured to total crop area, 86·37 (87·51) per cent.

Statistical Department,

Adelaide, January 8th, 1924.

W. L. JOHNSTON,

Government Statist.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FOR SEASON 1922-23 IN COMPARISON WITH SEASON 1921-22, ALSO MEANS FOR QUINQUENNIUMS
ENDING 1917-18 AND 1922-23.

No. 1.—Area under Cultivation.

Crop.	Seasons.		Increase.	Means of Quinquennium ending	
	1921-22.	1922-23.		1917-18.	1922-23.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Cereals—					
Wheat	2,384,012	2,453,086	69,074	2,528,747	2,223,602
Barley—					
Malting	151,257	197,619	46,362	69,025	154,057
Other	19,630	17,664	— 1,966	19,185	21,244
Total Barley	170,887	215,283	44,396	88,210	175,301
Oats	125,148	173,716	48,568	128,439	163,768
Maize	186	116	— 70	262	156
Rye	312	241	— 71	1,486	458
Other Cereals	—	—	—	30	20
Total Cereals	2,680,545	2,842,442	161,897	2,747,174	2,563,305
Hay—					
Wheaten	325,769	359,834	34,065	364,509	364,717
Oaten	225,878	208,769	— 17,109	143,337	187,875
Lucerne	4,145	4,973	828	2,942	3,466
Other	3,493	4,234	741	12,064	4,047
Total Hay	559,285	577,810	18,525	522,852	560,105
Green Forage—					
Wheaten	11,439	17,671	6,232	14,799	27,342
Barley	2,698	2,970	272	2,920	3,703
Oaten	8,047	10,977	2,930	5,599	9,744
Lucerne	23,736	26,397	2,661	14,919	19,988
Other	4,201	2,985	— 1,216	4,661	3,621
Total Green Forage	50,121	61,000	10,879	42,898	64,398
Pulse—					
Peas	5,964	5,216	— 748	6,994	6,149
Beans	57	95	38	43	69
Total Pulse	6,021	5,311	— 710	7,037	6,218
Orchards—					
In bearing	24,786	25,538	752	19,362	24,167
Not bearing	7,510	7,465	— 45	7,763	7,306
Total Orchards	32,296	33,003	707	27,125	31,473
Vineyards—					
Wine grapes	26,444	28,957	2,513	18,641	24,894
Table grapes	686	840	154	1,170	769
Drying grapes	14,294	16,953	2,659	8,144	12,065
Total Vineyards	41,424	46,750	5,326	27,955	37,728
Root Crops—					
Potatoes	5,800	5,749	— 51	6,338	4,609
Onions	369	364	— 5	334	387
Other root crops	366	468	102	338	391
Total Root Crops	6,535	6,581	46	7,010	5,387
Market gardens	1,486	1,438	— 48	1,766	1,428
Tomatoes	430	498	68	289	425
Pumpkins and melons	276	220	— 56	249	275
Nurseries	182	185	3	164	177
All other crops	163	214	51	30	110
GRAND TOTAL CROPPED AREA	3,378,764	3,575,452	196,688	3,384,549	3,271,029
Crops per head of population	6.72	6.97	0.25	7.60	6.69
Sown grasses	20,890	22,278	1,388	26,099	19,614
Fallow land	1,691,665	1,841,289	149,624	1,481,169	1,597,401
GRAND TOTAL CULTIVATED	5,091,319	5,439,019	347,700	4,891,817	4,888,044
Cultivation per head of population	10.13	10.60	0.47	10.98	9.99

No. 2.—Production of Principal Crops.

Chief Items.	Unit of Quantity.	Seasons		Increase.	Means of Quinquennium ending		Average Per Acre.	
		1921-22.	1922-23.		1917-18.	1922-23.	1921-22.	1922-23.
Cereals—								
Wheat	Bushel	24,946,525	28,784,767	3,838,242	25,807,316	25,181,509	10.46	11.73
Barley—								
Malting	Bushel	2,981,004	3,450,120	469,116	1,085,186	2,835,167	19.71	17.46
Other.....	Bushel	297,783	247,729	— 50,054	287,444	322,630	15.17	14.02
Total Barley	Bushel	3,278,787	3,697,849	419,062	1,372,630	3,157,797	19.19	17.18
Oats	Bushel	1,297,646	1,681,783	384,137	1,358,322	1,697,068	10.37	9.68
Maize.....	Bushel	3,792	2,716	— 1,076	4,026	2,762	20.39	23.41
Rye	Bushel	2,352	2,181	— 171	12,812	3,916	7.54	9.05
Hay—								
Wheaten	Ton	423,995	467,514	43,519	425,688	451,511	1.30	1.30
Oaten	Ton	243,540	214,005	— 29,535	152,423	198,958	1.08	1.03
Lucerne.....	Ton	8,638	10,685	2,047	6,148	7,497	2.08	2.15
Other.....	Ton	4,028	4,985	957	12,927	4,701	1.15	1.18
Total Hay	Ton	680,201	697,189	16,988	597,186	662,667	1.22	1.21
Green Forage (cut and fed off).....	Value £	118,156	130,941	12,785	76,743	107,227	—	—
Peas and Beans	Bushel	83,515	68,054	— 15,461	75,647	77,886	13.87	12.81
Straw	Ton	13,209	12,167	— 1,042	17,910	12,085	—	—
Potatoes	Ton	18,583	17,356	— 1,227	19,127	15,447	3.20	3.02
Onions	Ton	2,596	2,648	52	2,161	2,809	7.04	7.27
Market Gardens	Value £	96,193	98,480	2,287	77,409	88,365	64.73	68.48
Tomatoes	Bushel	117,909	155,091	37,182	69,318	122,411	274.20	311.43
Pumpkins and Melons	Ton	2,246	1,672	— 574	1,681	2,099	8.14	7.60
Nurseries	Value £	33,703	42,490	8,787	15,655	29,125	185.18	229.68
Vineyards—								
Total grape production	Ton	67,502	85,701	18,199	37,968	67,750	2.20	2.55
Wine made	Gallon	6,370,310	8,653,579	2,283,269	3,251,791	6,909,460	—	—
Currants	Cwt.	76,534	96,807	20,273	48,507	75,776	—	—
Raisins { Sultanas	Cwt.	39,651	39,670	19	24,868	32,966	—	—
Other	Cwt.	26,432	29,591	3,159	16,851	19,642	—	—
Table grapes.....	Ton	1,027	1,314	287	1,234	1,337	—	—
Miscellaneous—								
Wattle bark	Ton	6,278	5,645	— 633	5,042	6,057	—	—
Gums—Yacca, &c.	Ton	354	669	315	—	1,138	—	—
Orchards—								
Almonds	Cwt.	6,110	8,638	2,528	3,755	6,558	—	—
Walnuts and other nuts	Cwt.	450	545	95	456	502	—	—
Apples	Bushel	602,674	384,375	— 218,299	422,210	479,738	—	—
Apricots	Bushel	170,455	268,152	97,697	140,504	187,072	—	—
Cherries.....	Bushel	26,487	41,714	15,227	30,279	38,842	—	—
Figs	Bushel	18,152	18,714	562	12,651	16,609	—	—
Olives	Cwt.	10,203	*4,563	— 5,640	6,475	10,368	—	—
Peaches and nectarines.....	Bushel	185,582	231,926	46,344	100,812	198,800	—	—
Peanuts.....	Cwt.	8	—	— 8	20	11	—	—
Pears	Bushel	158,536	125,353	— 33,183	98,979	143,736	—	—
Plums and prunes	Bushel	110,554	123,211	12,657	86,707	120,137	—	—
Quinces	Bushel	36,092	37,623	1,531	31,165	39,325	—	—
Oranges.....	Bushel	355,111	411,508	56,397	137,791	312,702	—	—
Lemons	Bushel	51,847	53,483	1,636	28,678	49,899	—	—
Other citrus fruits	Bushel	1,678	2,422	744	325	1,467	—	—
Raspberries	Cwt.	1,817	2,211	394	2,532	1,967	—	—
Strawberries	Cwt.	1,360	1,305	— 55	1,759	1,515	—	—
Other bush and berry fruits	Cwt.	2,067	1,657	— 410	2,411	2,217	—	—
Unspecified.....	Bushel	3,923	3,837	— 86	1,797	3,854	—	—

* Subject to revision.